

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
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DATE: May 15, 1974

TO: The Director

FROM: DCI/NIO/SEA/

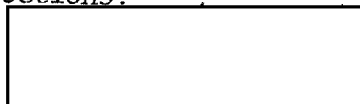
SUBJECT: Request from State and NSC Staff for
"Fact Sheet" on Vietnam

REMARKS: 1. Monty Stearns (State) and Bill Stearman (NSC Staff) have asked for a one-page unclassified "fact sheet" spelling out (a) how Communist troop strength has increased in South Vietnam since the January 1973 settlement agreement, and (b) the present status of North Vietnamese forces in Laos and Cambodia.

2. The figures we give will be used by State, DOD, and White House legislative liaison types in discussions with congressmen and others on the Vietnam military and economic aid bills for FY 75 presently before congress.

3. The attached draft response has been checked out with the ADDI, C/EA/DDO, C/VNO, OCI and OER. All are willing to have the attached "fact sheet" declassified and passed to Stearns and Stearman for the purpose indicated.

4. Have you any objections?



NIO/SEA

Attachment

cc: DDCI

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F A C T S H E E T

May 15, 1974

Communist Forces in South Vietnam

1. As of mid-May 1974, there were 285,000 Communist main force troops in South Vietnam (210,000 North Vietnamese and some 75,000 Viet Cong).
2. In late January 1973 when the Vietnam settlement agreement was signed, there were some 220,000 Communist main force troops in South Vietnam (160,000 North Vietnamese and about 60,000 Viet Cong).
3. Infiltration of new troops and unit deployments from North Vietnam -- in violation of the ceasefire agreement -- has thus been sufficient to strengthen NVA forces in the South by some 50,000 men. This increase in the strength of NVA forces has taken place in spite of tens of thousands of casualties suffered by North Vietnamese troops in the fighting which has continued since the ceasefire.
4. North Vietnam has also sent some 400 new tanks to its forces in the South since the ceasefire, and more than 1,000 field and anti-aircraft artillery pieces.

North Vietnamese Forces in Laos and Cambodia

1. There are still some 50,000 North Vietnamese troops in Laos, and available evidence indicates that Hanoi intends to keep many or most of them in Laos -- in violation of the Laos settlement agreement.
2. There are about 10,000 North Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. A few of them are advisors to the Khmer Communists, but most are engaged in operating and maintaining the NVA supply lines to South Vietnam which run through Cambodia. As long as North Vietnam needs these supply corridors, some NVA troops will almost certainly remain in Cambodia to man them.